

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 01161 261042 Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 NIC-01

OMB-01 RSR-01 /107 W

----- 019856

O R 260908 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6462

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1161

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KN NO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NORWEGIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REF: STATE 52999

BEGIN SUMMARY. GIVEN THE RECENT ASSURANCES TO ME BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF ANY FURTHER DEMARCHES TO THE NORWEGIANS ON RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA WERE MADE BY A SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TO THE NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

1. WITHIN THE PAST MONTH, I HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS ON RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA QUITE CLEAR TO BOTH PRIMIN KORVALD ( OSLO 712) AND FONMIN VAARVIK ( OSLO 806). BOTH ASSURE ME THAT THEY UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION, THAT THEY ARE UNDER NO IMMEDIATE PRESSURES TO EXTEND RECOGNITION TO THE NORTH AND THAT THEY WILL STALL AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. OTHER SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED THIS VIEWPOINT  
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PAGE 02 OSLO 01161 261042 Z

( OSLO 1059) , CAUTIONING ONLY THAT PRESSURES MAY BEGIN TO BUILD ( AS INDEED THEY MAY) ONCE OTHER NORDICS HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD. I NOTE THAT THE KOREA COUNTRY DIRECTOR IN THE DEPT HAS ALSO RECENTLY MADE A DEMARCHE TO THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY ( STATE 52999).

2. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I THINK IT WOULD BE A CASE OF OVERKILL FOR ME TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH VAARVIK BEFORE THURSDAY' S FOREIGN MINISTER' S MEETING JUST TO RE-RAISE THIS ISSUE; NO MATTER HOW I PUT IT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT I WAS STILL QUESTIONING WHAT HE TOLD ME ON FEB 28 AND WHAT HIS UNDER SECY TOLD MY POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF ON MARCH 14.

3. I THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE FAR BETTER FOR A SENIOR DEPT OFFICIAL TO CALL IN AMB GUNNENG TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE NORWEGIAN STAND, AS CONVEYED TO ME BY THE PRIMIN AND THE FONMIN, AND TO ASK HIM TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF HIS GOVT ONCE MORE OUR HOPES THAT THE MODERATE NORWEGIAN VIEW WILL PREVAIL AT THE MARCH 29-30 NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.

4. BY WAY OF ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND, THE LABOR PRESS ( ARBEIDERBLADET) HAS BEGUN TO CALL EDITORIALY FOR RECOGNITION OF PYONGYANG, WHILE THE CONSERVATIVE PRESS RIDICULES THE IDEA. THE ISSUE STILL IS NOT A SIGNIFICANT ONE IN NORWAY, BUT INTEREST MAY GROW BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER NATIONAL ELECTIONS. GIVEN THE LIKELIHOOD THAT ALL THE OTHER NORDICS WILL HAVE ACTED BEFORE FALL AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT LABOR MIGHT BRING THE ISSUE INTO THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, I THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT THIS WEAK MINORITY GOVT WILL SPECIFICALLY PLEDGE ITSELF TO DO NOTHING BEFORE THE UNGA MEETS. CROWE

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**TAGS:** PFOR, KN, NO, n/a  
**To:** COPENHAGEN  
EA  
HELSINKI  
REYKJAVIK  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
SEOUL  
STOCKHOLM

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